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Security Council

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Letter dated 7 April 2011 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am transmitting herewith a letter dated 21 March 2011 from the Chairman of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by the Security Council in its resolution 1612 (2005), based on the Working Group's conclusions on children and armed conflict in Somalia adopted on 25 February 2011 (S/AC.51/2011/2) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Néstor **Osorio**
President of the Security Council

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Annex to the letter dated 7 April 2011 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

At its 28th meeting, on 22 December 2010, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the third report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Somalia (S/2010/577), covering the period 31 May 2008 to 31 March 2010. At its 29th meeting, on 25 February 2011, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in Somalia (S/AC.51/2011/2).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, which were approved by the Security Council, and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), I am entrusted in my capacity as the Chairman of the Working Group, to commend the establishment of the country-level task force on monitoring and reporting at the highest level, and requesting you to strengthen monitoring and reporting of the situation of children in Somalia and, through the established country-level task force, to support the Transitional Federal Government in the preparation of a time-bound action plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers and to conduct a dialogue with all other stakeholders, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009).

The Working Group invites you to strengthen the child protection component of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and to include information on this aspect in the update to be provided in your next report to the Security Council, to be submitted in April 2011, in accordance with paragraph 20 of resolution 1910 (2010).

The Working Group invites you and the United Nations country team to explore ways to engage in dialogue with non-State armed groups for the purposes of child protection in the context of the cooperation framework between the United Nations and the Transitional Federal Government, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009).

The Working Group invites you to request the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, other relevant United Nations agencies and independent experts of the Human Rights Council, within their respective mandates, to assist the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in strengthening national institutions, providing further assistance in the implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and strengthening the education system, including in conflict-affected areas.

(*Signed*) Peter **Wittig**
Chairman
Security Council Working Group
on Children and Armed Conflict